

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 2, 5, 13, and 15, and add new claims 21-36.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument, comprising:
 - a flexible tubular member having a distal end and a proximal end;
 - a handle attached to the proximal end of the flexible tubular member;
 - an end effector assembly having an end effector and an attachment portion for releasably attaching to the distal end of the flexible tubular member, the attachment portion having a protrusion for resisting detachment of the attachment portion and the flexible tubular member; and
 - an actuator connected to the handle and the end effector assembly for actuating the end effector.
2. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the flexible tubular member has a hollow, coil-less structure.
3. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the tubular member has a plurality of lumens.
4. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the attachment portion has an

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

inner wall and an outer wall having the protrusion.

5. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 4, wherein the end effector assembly is attached to the distal end of the flexible tubular member such that the attachment portion is inserted into the flexible tubular member and the flexible tubular member covers the outer wall of the attachment portion.
6. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 5, wherein the protrusion of the outer wall is a threaded surface.
7. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 5, wherein the protrusion of the outer wall is a stepped portion of the attachment portion.
8. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the attachment portion has an inner wall having the protrusion and an outer wall.
9. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 8, wherein the end effector assembly is attached to the distal end of the tubular member such that the tubular member is inserted into the attachment portion and the distal end of the tubular member is covered by the inner wall of the attachment portion.
10. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 9, wherein the tubular member has a

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
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step-down portion between the distal end and the proximal end for providing a smaller diameter at the distal end than that at the proximal end.

11. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 9, wherein the protrusion of the inner wall is a threaded surface.

12. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the end effector assembly is a biopsy forceps assembly having a jaw support member, and the end effector is a pair of jaws hinged to the jaw support member.

13. (Currently Amended) An end effector assembly of [[a]] an endoscopic surgical instrument having [[an]] a flexible elongate tubular member, the end effector assembly comprising:

an end effector; and
an attachment portion connected to the end effector and configured to attach releasably to the flexible tubular member of the endoscopic surgical instrument, the attachment portion having a protrusion for resisting detachment of the attachment portion and the flexible tubular member.

14. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 13, wherein the attachment portion has an inner wall and an outer wall having the protrusion.

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202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
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15. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 14, wherein the attachment portion is configured to be inserted into the flexible tubular member.

16. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 15, wherein the protrusion of the outer wall is a threaded surface.

17. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 15, wherein the protrusion of the outer wall is a stepped portion of the attachment portion.

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18. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 13, wherein the attachment portion has an inner wall having the protrusion and an outer wall.

19. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 18, wherein the attachment portion is configured to cover the tubular member.

20. (Withdrawn) The surgical instrument of claim 19, wherein the protrusion of the inner wall is a threaded surface.

21 (New) A surgical instrument, comprising:

a tubular member having a distal end and a proximal end;

a handle attached to the proximal end of the tubular member;

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DUNNER LLP

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an end effector assembly including a passageway therethrough, the end effector assembly having an end effector and an attachment portion for releasably attaching to the distal end of the tubular member, the attachment portion having a protrusion for resisting detachment of the attachment portion and the tubular member; and

a unitary actuator connected to the end effector to actuate the end effector, the actuator received through the passageway of the end effector assembly and extending to the proximal end of the tubular member.

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22. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 21, wherein the tubular member has a hollow, coil-less structure.

23. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 21, wherein the attachment portion has an inner wall and an outer wall having the protrusion.

24. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 21, wherein the end effector assembly is attached to the distal end of the tubular member such that the attachment portion is inserted into the tubular member and the tubular member covers the outer wall of the attachment portion.

25. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 21, wherein the protrusion of the outer wall is a threaded surface.

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DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
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26. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 21, wherein the actuator is a flexible elongate actuator configured to connect to a proximal end of the end effector for actuating the end effector.
27. (New) The surgical instrument of 26, wherein the actuator is a pair of pull wires.
28. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 26, wherein the tubular member has a hollow, coil-less structure.
29. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 26, wherein the attachment portion has an inner wall and an outer wall having the protrusion.
30. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 26, wherein the end effector assembly is attached to the distal end of the tubular member such that the attachment portion is inserted into the tubular member and the tubular member covers the outer wall of the attachment portion.
31. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 26, wherein the protrusion of the outer wall is a threaded surface.
32. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 21, wherein the tubular member is a flexible tubular member configured for placement within a long winding path of a body cavity.

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GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

33. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 32, wherein the flexible tubular member has a hollow, coil-less structure.
34. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 32, wherein the attachment portion has an inner wall and an outer wall having the protrusion.
35. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 32, wherein the end effector assembly is attached to the distal end of the flexible tubular member such that the attachment portion is inserted into the flexible tubular member and the flexible tubular member covers the outer wall of the attachment portion.
36. (New) The surgical instrument of claim 32, wherein the protrusion of the outer wall is a threaded surface.

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GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
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